(c) the action taken on the request of the maistris for payment of gratuity;

(d) whether there is any Government Order that the maistris should own cycles, and if so, whether any cycle allowance is paid to them;

(e) with reference to answer to question No. 240 given on 24th December 1953 whether the Government have since passed orders on the representation from the road maistris under Highways and district boards; and

(f) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (a) House-rent allowance is admissible to Public Works maistris in municipalities where the allowance is granted to the other members of the staff. Maistris employed by panchayats will be eligible for house-rent allowance if the panchayat is a taluk headquarters station and the maistris belong to the regular establishment.

" (b) Yes, Sir.

" (c) No such request has been received by the Government.

" (d) No, Sir. If application for the grant of cycle allowance is submitted to Government, it will be examined on its merits.

" (e) No, Sir.

" (f) The matter is still under consideration."

Thirumandhamkunnu temple in Walluvanad taluk.

* 1024 Q.—

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member is not in his place. Answers will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI A. APPU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government or the Commissioner for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments has received any complaint from the worshippers in Thirumandhamkunnu temple in Walluvanad taluk, Malabar, that the various items of pujas are not properly conducted;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the annual income from the properties and from the offerings of worshippers of this temple;

(d) the annual expenditure on the staff employed in the temple; and

(e) the monthly salary of the manager of the temple?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) A petition has been received by the Deputy Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Administration) Department, Coimbatore;

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"(b) The Deputy Commissioner is taking appropriate action in the matter.

"(c) The income for fasli 1362 from the properties was Rs. 30,993–4–1 and 4,953 paras of paddy. Income from the offerings for the same fasli was Rs. 4,860–12–5.

"(d) Rs. 7,713–6–9 and 3,367 paras of paddy during fasli 1362.

"(e) The monthly salary of the Executive Officer of the temple is Rs. 200 in the scale of Rs. 200—15—300 plus a dearness allowance of Rs. 43 per mensem."

Extension of electric supply in Tanjore district.

*1025 *Q.*—Sri S. RAMALINGAM (on behalf of Sri K. R. Sambandam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the amount spent on the extension of electric supply in the Tanjore district during 1952–53 by the Government?

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI:—"The Government Electricity Department is not supplying electricity to any part of the Tanjore district directly. The whole of the district is being served by electric licensees. The question of the Government spending any amount on extension schemes in the district does not therefore arise. The total amount spent by the concerned licensees during 1952–53 on extensions in the district was Rs. 7,87,047."

Sri S. RAMALINGAM:—"கிராமப் பகுதிகளில் துரிதமாக மின்சாரத்தை விஸ்தரிக்க தனிப்பட்ட நபர்களிடமிருக்கும் மின்சார கம்பெனிகளை எடுத்துக்கொள்வதற்கு சர்க்கார் ஏதாவது உத்தேசித்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்களா?"

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI:—"We have just passed the Act. We will be taking action in due course. If the licensees have been doing well, we will be going slow. That is what I have stated."

Fair price shops.

*1026 *Q.*—Sri A. RATNAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) how many fair price shops were functioning on 1st February 1954;

(b) the approximate supply of rice to the fair price shops per week; and

(c) how many rice ration shops were functioning in the year 1950?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"(a) 3,888 fair price shops and 2,277 ration shops were functioning in the derationed areas and in the informally rationed areas of the State, respectively.

"(b) The approximate supply of rice per week to the fair price shops and ration shops is 3,711 tons.